

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:194
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
BPL FAMILIES IN KBK DISTRICTS
Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has failed to eradicate hunger from KBK districts of Orissa;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the National Human Rights Commission has pointed out wrong estimates regarding BPL families in the region;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Orissa has requested for release of funds to clear the pending claims in KBK region under the National Family Benefit Scheme;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) & (b): No allegation of starvation death in KBK districts has been reported in recent years. Government of India and Government of Orissa have made sustained efforts to eradicate hunger in KBK districts. In order to tackle the food distress among old, infirm and indigent people of the families with the most intense poverty, two lakh beneficiaries per annum have been covered under Emergency Feeding Programme in the KBK districts. Supplementary nutrition is being provided to 9.42 lakh children, pregnant and lactating mothers per annum in these districts. Local Sarpanches have been authorized to provide food assistance to distressed families on cards without delay and without waiting for orders from higher levels for a period of 10 days, so that the families going without food are provided with immediate succour. Prolonged assistance, if needed, is given by the BDO of the Block, Sub-Collector for the Sub Division and Collector for the district for a period of 30 days, 45 days and 2 months respectively.

(c)&(d): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), in their order dated 30.08.2006, have requested Government of India to suitably enhance the allocation of BPL rice @ 35 Kg. per month / household to 50.19 lakh BPL households of the State, as estimated by the State Panchayati Raj Department until the finding of 2002 survey are finalized.

(e)&(f): Yes, Sir. Government of Orissa have requested Government of India to release a sum of Rs. 50 crore to clear the pending claims under the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) for the State as a whole.

(g): The combined allocation for the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), which includes the National Family Benefit Scheme(NFBS), has been enhanced from Rs.5899.77 lakh in 2005-06 to Rs.17021.77 lakh in 2006-07 in respect of Orissa.